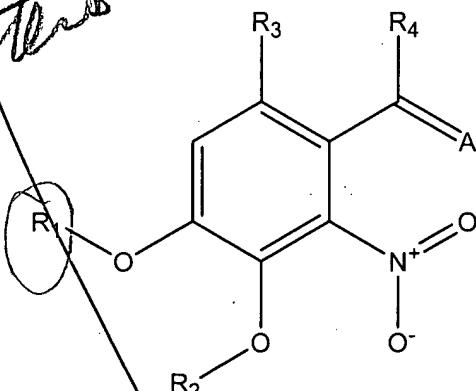


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula I:



where:

R₁ and R₂ are the same or different and signify hydrogen, [optionally substituted]
lower alkanoyl, [or] aroyl[, optionally substituted] or lower alkoxy carbonyl[,
or optionally substituted lower alkyl carbamoyl] groups;

R₃ signifies hydrogen, [or optionally substituted] an alkanoyl or an aroyl group;

R₄ signifies [optionally substituted saturated or partially unsaturated lower alkyl
or] an aryl group or a saturated or partially unsaturated lower alkyl group

optionally substituted with an aryl or heterocycloalkyl group, or R₄ taken
together with R₃ signifies [an optionally substituted] a saturated or partially
unsaturated carbocyclic ring optionally substituted with one of:
at least one alkyl group.

Handwritten notes: '558' is written above '265' and '272' is written below it. '266' is written below '272'.

an alkylidenearyl group optionally further substituted with at least one

hydroxy, alkoxy, dialkylamino, lower alkyl, halogen, or

trifluoromethyl group, or

an alkylheterocycloalkyl group; and

A1
A signifies oxygen [or NR₅ group, where R₅ signifies NHR₆ where R₆ signifies optionally substituted lower alkyl or aryl group, or OR₇ group where R₇ signifies hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkanoyl, or A signifies an optionally substituted alkylidene when R₄ signifies OR₈ group where R₈ signifies optionally substituted lower alkanoyl or areyl group,]; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

A2
Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 comprising[~~6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; (3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl) phenyl-methanone; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one oxime; 2-(3,4-Dimethoxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 6,7-dihydroxy-2-(4-~~

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~~hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-4-phenyl-butan-1-one; 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-pentan-1-one; 2,3-dihydroxy-1-nitro-anthraquinone; butyric acid-6-butyroxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester; butyric acid-3-benzoyl-6-butyroxy-2-nitro-phenyl ester; carbonic acid-4-benzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester; carbonic acid-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester; carbonic acid-4,5-dibenzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-phenyl-ethanone; acetic acid-3-acetoxy-7,7-dimethyl-1-nitro-8-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl ester; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-morpholin-4-yl-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-pyrrolidin-1-yl-propan-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-2-morpholin-4-ylmethyl-7-nitro-indan-1-one; 1-[3-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-oxo-propyl]-piperidene-3-carboxylic-acid-diethylamide; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(octahydro-quinolin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3,5-dimethyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one; 3-(4-benzyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(4-~~

B1
Cont

A2

~~methoxy phenyl) piperazin-1-yl] propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl) piperazin-1-yl] propan-1-one; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-propyl-piperazin-1-yl) propan-1-one; acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-acryloyl)-phenyl ester 1(3,4-Dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propenone; 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-morpholin-4-yl ethanone; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl) piperazin-1-ylmethyl] indan-1-one; 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-(4-phenyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl) indan-1-one; acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester; acetic acid 2-acetoxy-4-(1-acetoxy-2-phenyl-vinyl)-3-nitro-phenyl ester; butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester; carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester ethyl ester; acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl) phenyl ester; butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl) phenyl ester or carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(4-phenyl-butyryl) phenyl ester ethyl ester] 6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one.~~

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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Claims 6 (currently amended): ~~[The use of a compound according to claim 1 in~~

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~~the manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a medication for treating a subject afflicted by central or peripheral nervous system disorders comprising combining a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.~~

B1
cont

A3

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~[The use of a compound according to claim 1 in the manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a medication for treating mood disorders, Parkinson's disease and parkinsonian disorders, gastrointestinal disturbances, edema formation states and hypertension comprising combining a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.~~

Claim 8 (canceled)

A4

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~[The use of a compound according to claim 1 in the manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a medicament for use as a COMT inhibitor comprising combining a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.~~

A5

Claim 10 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

B1
Cont

Claim 11 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one.

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Claim 12 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising (3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-phenyl-methanone.

Claim 13 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dimethoxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 14 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 15 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(4-dimethylamino-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 16 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 17 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 6,7-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one.

B1
Cont

Claim 18 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

AS

Claim 19 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-benzylidene)-6,7-dihydroxy-8-nitro-3,4-dihydro-2H-naphthalen-1-one.

Claim 20 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propan-1-one.

Claim 21 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-4-phenyl-butan-1-one.

Claim 22 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2-(3,4-dihydroxy-5-nitro-benzylidene)-5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 23 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-pentan-1-one.

Claim 24 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 2,3-dihydroxy-1-nitro-anthraquinone.

b1
cont

Claim 25 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butyroxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 26 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 3-benzoyl-6-butyroxy-2-nitro-phenyl ester.

Claim 27 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 4-benzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

AS

Claim 28 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(3-phenyl-propionyl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 29 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 4,5-dibenzoyl-2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

Claim 30 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-phenyl-ethanone.

Claim 31 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 3-acetoxy-7,7-dimethyl-1-nitro-8-oxo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-naphthalen-2-yl ester.

D1
cont

Claim 32 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-morpholin-4-yl-propan-1-one.

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Claim 33 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propan-1-one.

Claim 34 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-pyrrolidin-1-yl-propan-1-one.

Claim 35 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-2-morpholin-4-ylmethyl-7-nitro-indan-1-one.

Claim 36 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6 dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-piperidin-1-ylmethyl-indan-1-one.

Claim 37 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-[3-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-oxo-propyl]-piperidene-3-carboxylic acid diethylamide.

Claim 38 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

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cont

Claim 39 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-methyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

Claim 40 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(octahydro-quinolin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

Claim 41 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(3,5-dimethyl-piperidin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

AS

Claim 42 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 3-(4-benzyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-propan-1-one.

Claim 43 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-one.

Claim 44 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propan-1-one.

Claim 45 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-(4-propyl-piperazin-1-yl)-propan-1-one.

D1
CDW

Claim 46 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(3-phenyl-acryloyl)-phenyl ester.

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Claim 47 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-3-phenyl-propenone.

Claim 48 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 1-(3,4-dihydroxy-2-nitro-phenyl)-2-morpholin-4-yl-ethanone.

Claim 49 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-[4-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-piperazin-1-ylmethyl]-indan-1-one.

Claim 50 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising 5,6-dihydroxy-7-nitro-2-(4-phenyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-indan-1-one.

Claim 51 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester.

Claim 52 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 2-acetoxy-4-(1-acetoxy-2-phenyl-vinyl)-3-nitro-phenyl ester.

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cont

Claim 53 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester.

Claim 54 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-phenylacetyl-phenyl ester ethyl ester.

AS

Claim 55 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising acetic acid 6-acetoxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 56 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising butyric acid 6-butyryloxy-2-nitro-3-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester.

Claim 57 (new): A compound according to claim 1 comprising carbonic acid 2-ethoxycarbonyloxy-3-nitro-4-(4-phenyl-butyryl)-phenyl ester ethyl ester.